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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Answer of Communist Central Committee
to Charges of Duran Followers

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1. Following the expulsion of Augusto Duran from the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCG) in October 1950, a protest letter was written to the Party's Central Executive Committee by 62 of Duran's followers. This letter was finally answered in June 1951, and has now been released to Party members. The essence of the communication is contained in the following paragraphs.
2. Duran was expelled not for criticizing the errors of the Executive Committee but because he led a divisionist attempt and because he continued to diffuse opportunist theories based on bourgeois conceptions of nationalism. The Party has regularly struggled against anarchist tendencies and adventures fomented by certain Liberal leaders among the working class. Full internal democracy exists in the Party despite difficulties brought on by the state of siege and the dictatorship. The Party has endeavored to advance the cause of world peace by placing this matter at the head of its tasks.
3. It was stated that the Party has always fought on two fronts, against the tendencies which pretend that the peasantry is the vanguard of the revolution and against those which hold that the bourgeoisie plays an important role in the resistance against imperialism. The Party maintains that the working class is the only class which can lead in organizing the revolution. The Colombian Communist Party is the only Party effectively opposing the policy of war and of giving up the country to Yankee imperialism, and the only group which has struggled to prevent the sending of troops to Korea and the implementing of the Currie plan.
4. It was emphasized that several of the false positions held by the Duran followers resulted from a failure to place the struggle for peace in first place. Rather, this group has tended to consider the economic contradictions of the government and the bourgeois as the only important matter in the struggle against imperialism.

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5. The Central Committee protested that the Party had not been to blame for the rupture in the working class organizations. The growing weakness of the syndicate movement was rather the result of the official offensive on one hand and the intrigues and intervention of the liberal bourgeois on the other. In the Tenth Labor Congress the Communists tried to correct in one step the old opportunist tendency to temporize and they allowed themselves to be maneuvered into a disadvantageous position. It was admitted that the Party had over-estimated its strength and because of this took an intransigent and sectarian stand. The Party was defeated because there was no unity of action among its representatives, and since that time every effort has been made to promote unity in the working class.
6. The Cuban followers were invited to return to the Party with the assurance that they would have the opportunity to develop their opinions within the pattern of democratic centralism. The communication was signed by Oliberto Vieira White and other members of the Central Executive Committee.

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